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Douglas (James)

THE SPEECH

OF

His Grace JAMES Duke of Queensberry, &c. Her Majesties High Commissioner, to the PARLIAMENT of SCOTLAND.

On *Tuesday* the Ninth Day of *June* 1702.

James C Douglas

My Lords and Gentlemen,

THis being our first Meeting in Parliament, after the loss of our late glorious Soveraign, we cannot forbear to condole his Death, with the most tender and sincere Expressions of Gratitude and Esteem: He was the great Deliverer of these Nations, the Defender of the Protestant Interest, and the Support of the general Liberty of *Europe*; you have so often testified your Sense of his great Actions, by your dutiful Acknowledgements, that I need not insist, for while Religion and Liberty are in any value, King *Williams* Memory must be in perpetual Honour.

Nothing could repair this Loss, and compose our Minds, but her Majesties happy accession to the Crown, who from her Infancy has given the most undenyable Proofs of her Affection to the Protestant Religion, against the strongest and most insinuating Temptations: And it is a great Blessing that we have a Queen with such Principles of the Royal Blood and Line of *Scotland*, and especially a Princess who has been amongst us, and has a particular regard for us.

The first Acts of Her Majesties Government were ready and seasonable Encouragements and Assistance to Her Allies, in prosecution of the Treaties made by the late King, to unite & animat *Europe* against the exorbitant and incroaching Power of *France*, so that Her Majesties Zeal for the true Religion, Her Steddy & evident Purpose to prosecute all Measures for advancing the Glory and Interest of Her Kingdoms, and for the Defence and Security of Her Allies, with that unparalelled Goodness, that appears in all Her Resolutions and Actions, do promise us all Happiness under Her most auspicious Reign.

Her Majesties Letter to the Parliament, gives all Her Subjects of this Kingdom, the most desireable Assurances of Her firm Resolution to protect our Religion, Liberties and Laws, and particularly the Presbyterian Government as now established, and this Her good Mind, Her Majesty thought fit

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to signifie by you to Her People, knowing that this Loyal Parliament did establish our present happy Settlement, and hath ever shewed a firm Zeal to maintain the same, and by calling you together, Her Majesty hath afforded you this early Opportunity to congratulat Her Accession and Entry to the Royal Government, and to make Her such Offers of Duty as are necessary for the support of Her Authority and your own Preservation.

The present just and necessary War which Her Majesty was obliged to declare in all her Dominions in pursuance of the Treaties made by the late King, does require sufficient Supplies for the Maintenance of such Forces, as are needful for the Security of the Government and the publick Safety of the Nation.

There is nothing can contribute more to the interest of the Protestant Religion, and the Security of the present Constitution of the Government, than an Union betwixt the two Kingdoms of *Scotland* and *England*: It was amongst the last things recommended by the late King, and the first proposed by her Majesty to the Parliament of *England*: You see how concernedly Her Majesty Recommends it to you, and you all know how far the Parliament of *England* hath advanced in this matter, by impowering Her Majesty to Name Commissioners to treat with such as shall be impowered from this or any subsequent Parliament of this Kingdom.

I can assure you from my proper Knowledge, that there appears at this time a greater Disposition in the *English* Nation towards an Union, than could ever be discovered formerly, which is a very great Encouragement; And I hope you will give them suteable Returns.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

It has pleased Her Majesty to honour me with this high Trust to represent Her Royal Person, as her Commissioner. if Her Commands had left place for my Excuses, *I* had Reason enough to decline so weighty an Imployment; But the Experience I have had of your Kindness, and Regard for me, while I was formerly imployed in this Trust, and my own sincere Intentions to serve Her Majesty, and my Countrey, to the outmost of my power, are the principal Encouragements I have in this Undertaking; Therefore I resolve to maintain Her Majesties Authority, and answer that Confidence, she has been pleased to repose in me, with all Loyalty and Firmness. And I hope from your Prudence and Zeal for the Government, that Her Majesty shall receive Satisfaction, and the Nation Advantage.

FINIS.